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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, LONDON FOR TSOU, PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2016  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KU](#) [FREEDOM](#) [AGENDA](#) [NATIONAL](#) [ASSEMBLY](#)  
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER EXPELLED FROM ISLAMIST  
POLITICAL ASSOCIATION IN ROW OVER ELECTORAL REFORM

REF: A. KUWAIT 1773  
[1](#)B. KUWAIT 1638  
[1](#)C. KUWAIT 1637

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reason 1.4 (d)

(C) Dr. Ismail Al-Shatti, the Minister of Communications and a senior member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the political arm of the Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood, was expelled from the ICM after refusing to resign in protest of the Government's position in the debate over electoral reform (ref A), the English daily Arab Times reported May 21. Al-Shatti served as the head of the ICM's Ideological and Civilizational Dialogue (i.e. Foreign Relations) Office until his appointment as Minister of Communications in February. At that time, the organization was elated to have a member be included in the new Cabinet. This latest development may indicate that the ICM's internal cohesion and degree of control over its members is not as strong as some suggest. It is known that Al-Shatti only took the job because of his close ties to the Prime Minister, thus his decision to stay may reflect this primary loyalty.

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LEBARON